

Committee who failed to advance that bill out of committee, initially. They had the hearing. They took a vote immediately after, as I understand it, or shortly thereafter and failed to advance the bill out to the floor. Now we have the Chairman of that Revenue Committee coming back to us, telling us that, hey, the reason we can't get...we need to do this on 294 is because we can't get to LB 1238 right now. The reason for it is the Revenue Committee didn't advance it weeks ago. Now, they took a couple weeks and they held a big breakfast meeting and everything and now the bill has been advanced to the floor, it could have been brought to the floor of the Legislature for consideration. And it seems to me that we have a lot of bills that have been special ordered here in the Legislature. We have had a special order on a bill that allows for a lien against automobiles that are towed. We had a motion here the other day to special order LB 1042 on the Curtis Ag School. I guess the Curtis Ag School is going to come up today anyway. But that is my understanding that special order can be made by the Speaker on a particular bill and it could have been done with LB 1238, as far as I know. I don't understand why LB 1238 was not special ordered, why we didn't have a full and fair debate on that entire issue here earlier and why we didn't consider that bill. At least, that bill had a full public hearing. It was advanced out of the committee, maybe with some delay, but it got to the floor of the Legislature. I have some motions on that bill that would strike the cigarette and the pickle card sales tax increase. We could have debated that fully and fairly at that time and would have had proper time to prepare and to consider the whole aspects of...the entire aspects of that. But, no, now we're coming up with 294 here on Select File with seven days left in the legislative session and trying to add on a three cent cigarette tax. It doesn't seem to me it's the appropriate way to do it. I would like to...I think I have stated earlier my reasons for opposing the cigarette tax. I don't smoke and I really, you know, I...when I go to a restaurant I go to the "no smoking" area of the restaurant. It's not that I have any special regard for people or for cigarettes, because I don't. The question I have is that the cigarette tax does not limit or restrict smoking at all. And if you take...numerous studies show if you increase the tax on cigarettes by a minute amount, three or four cents, there is a minimal if...negligible, if no effect, on the amount of cigarette smoke. It has no effect on reducing cigarette smoking. What it does have an effect on doing is taxing, placing a tax on lower and middle income people because they are